

Serial No. 09/614,993

Docket No.: 55085US002

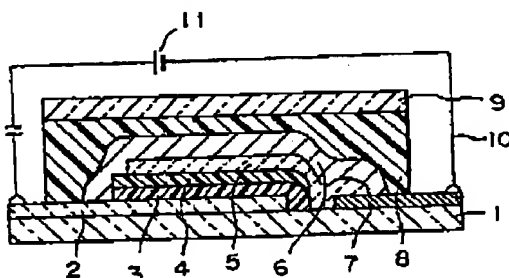
Remarks

Applicants have editorially amended the application, claims and drawing and added new claims 45-60. Support for these amendments can be found in the written description at, e.g., page 3, lines 1-19 and page 7, lines 10-25 (abstract amendment), page 9, lines 8-9 (claim 40), page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 26, page 7, lines 16-17, page 17, line 25 through page 18, line 4 and Figs. 6-9, 11, 12 and 12a (claims 43, 46-48 and 54-58), page 11, line 10 (claim 45), page 14, lines 9-11 and page 16, lines 24-25 (claim 49), page 10, lines 24-25 (claims 50 and 59), page 11, lines 11-12 (claim 51), page 7, line 25 and page 14, line 28 (claim 52), page 12, lines 16-17 (claim 53) and page 3, line 32 (claim 60). Following entry of this amendment, claims 38-60 will be pending in this application.

Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102

Claims 38-44 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,652,067 (Ito et al.). Ito et al. form their device by applying to substrate 1 an anode 2, hole injecting and transporting layer 3, organic electroluminescent layer 4 and cathode 5, and then overcoating the thus-formed elements with sealing layer 6, adhesive 8 and protective member 9:

FIG. 1

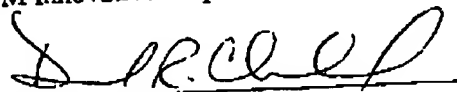
If the hole injecting and transporting layer 3 and organic electroluminescent layer 4 layers are assumed to represent a "multi-layer structure", Ito et al.'s adhesive 8 does not have "an opening through the adhesive that surrounds the multi-layer structure" as recited in amended claim 43. Applicant accordingly requests withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claims 38-44 as being anticipated by Ito et al.

Serial No.09/614.993Docket No.: 55085US002**Conclusion**

Applicants have made an earnest effort to resolve all issues and to place the written description, claims and drawing in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney if there are any questions or suggestions regarding this application.

March 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
3M Innovative Properties Company,



David R. Cleveland
Registration No: 29,524
612-331-7412 (telephone)
612-331-7401 (facsimile)

IPLM Group, P.A.
P.O. Box 18455
Minneapolis, MN 55418

All correspondence regarding this application should be directed to:

Steven F. Skolnick
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427
Telephone: (651) 736-7796
Facsimile: (651) 736-3833